



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

---

**18 VAC 70-20 – Rules and Regulations for the Virginia Board for Geology  
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
March 3, 2010**

---

### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Virginia Board for Geology (Board) proposes to repeal the text in this regulation that specifies: “The fee for duplicate wall certificates shall be \$25.”

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Certified geologists are not required to display or otherwise possess their physical certificate. Possessing and displaying a wall certificate is optional. The Board proposes to repeal the current language in these regulations that “The fee for duplicate wall certificates shall be \$25.” The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (Department) has indicated that the fee for requested duplicate wall certificates would be set in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3704.F: “A public body may make reasonable charges not to exceed its actual cost incurred in accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for the requested records.”

The Department has also indicated that initially at least, the fee would remain at \$25 after the text is repealed. Thus, the cost to certified geologists would not change at all, at least initially. If the cost of providing the duplicate certificate some time in the future exceeds \$25, the Board could raise the fee to match that cost. If the fee is below the true cost of accessing, duplicating, supplying, searching and providing the duplicate certificate, then presumably the excess cost would be paid for in higher certification fees for all geologists, including those not requesting duplicate certificates. It is beneficial to have those who request an optional service to pay for the true cost of that service, rather than have it subsidized by those not requesting the

optional service. If it were to be subsidized, then requests would be encouraged producing additional costs to those who do not benefit from the service.

### **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed amendment potentially affects the 854 certified professional geologists in Virginia.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed amendment does not disproportionately affect particular localities.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposal amendment will not significantly affect employment.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed amendment will not significantly affect the use and value of private property.

### **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

The proposed amendment is unlikely to significantly affect small businesses.

### **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

The proposed amendment is unlikely to significantly affect small businesses.

### **Real Estate Development Costs**

The proposed amendment will not significantly affect real estate development costs.

### **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 107 (09). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed

regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.